Conseil Public



Arménie

Date d'entrée: July 20, 2010

Membre de l'AICESIS

Membre de l'ILO

**Conseil Public**

**Président :** M. Vazgen MANUKYAN

* **Establishment:**July 2008

**Date of creation:**March 2009

**Year operational:**2009

**Nature of the texts that create the ESC:**Presidential resolutions, decrees, protocols

* **Composition**

**Number of members of the ESC 36 members**

**Membership structure:**The Public Council of Armenia consists of 36 members and 12 area committees. 12 out of the 36 members were appointed by the Order of the Armenian President and were tasked with setting up 12 area committees. 1200 non-governmental organizations delegated about 1950 of their representatives to those committees. At their sessions the committees elected chairpersons who became other 12 members of the Public Council. The last 12 members were elected by 24 members the Public Council.

**Duration of the term:**4 years

**Process of designating the members (election, nomination, by whom, etc.):**Mixed- designation and nomination can happen either by the President of the Republic, or by the President of Public Council.

* **Mission and attributions**

The main mission of the Public Council of Armenia is to be an entity that provides general public with leverage with regard to government policies, while enabling the Government to bring their actions in line with public expectations. The goals of the Public Council are:

* representation of interests of the Armenian citizens and non-governmental associations in State policy formulation and implementation;
* identification and discussion of problems that emerge in various areas of State and public life;
* provision of recommendations for State bodies and for public at large;
* establishment of traditions that contribute to consolidation of civil society;
* support for civic initiatives that aim to protect rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of Armenian citizens and civic associations.

* **Administrative organization of the ESC**

The administrative staff of the Public Council consists of 9 members- the head of staff, spokesperson, coordinator of international affairs, the president’s advisor, secretary and 4 coordinators each responsible for 3  out of the 12 committees of the Council.

* **Functioning of the ESC**

The Public Council of Armenia is competent to undertake expert evaluation of the Armenian laws and other normative Acts and to hold consultations and hearings with regard to those problems, laws and decisions, which have received much public attention, and to involve citizens and representatives of civic associations and mass media.

Recognition of the important role of the Public Council in the public life of the country has led to amendments in the Regulations of the National Assembly and the Government thereby enabling the Public Council to take part in the work of those bodies and to present its position.

As a depoliticized entity, the Public Council is grounded in the principle of *pro bono* participation of Armenian citizens and civic associations and of representatives of the Armenian Diaspora. Addressing the issues of public concern, each committee actively works holding sessions and establishing working groups with a view to reviewing the issues related to a given area. 130 members of the National Academy of Sciences, doctors of science and professors and 329 holders of a Ph.D. degree work in the Public Council on a *pro bono* basis. 422 of committee members are from the country’s regions.  32.7% of the committee members are women.

* **Achievements of the ESC**

**Main publications/studies:**

- Strategy concept of development of civil society organizations in Armenia, created by the Committee on Civil Society Development of Public Council of Armenia.

- Package of recommendations sent to the Government regarding the Public Transport of the capital City of Armenia.

- Recommendations sent to the Government and the President regarding the new law about the Mandatory Funded Pensions.

-  Recommendations about the perspectives of Armenian Civic Aviation.

- Recommendation regarding the implementation of economic mobilization policy

- Recommendations about the effective exploitation of inner recourses in the economy.

- Recommendation was made to simplify the taxation legislature for small and medium enterprises.

-Recommendations presented to the government on effective   utilization of the internal recourses,  reconstruction and reevaluation of  national Armenian brands.

-Various Recommendations sent to the Govenrment on Environmental and Urban issues.

- Recommendations to the Government on the necessity of developing cooperatives in the sphere of agriculture.

- Package of recommendations sent to the Government regarding the Public Education.

- Recommendations sent to the National Assembly to create draft laws regarding the trade unions that will protect workers’ rights and will create favorable conditions for further evolution of trade unions.

- Recommendations sent to the Constitutional Court to make changes in the law regarding the implantation of human organs and cells.

**Best Practices**

- Stimulating export of goods, Simplification of taxation legislature for the small and medium enterprises. Based on the recommendations of PCA the government began to subsidize up to 3% of the expenditure for the goods to be exported from the country.  As a result of Government subsidizing the charges on export products, export grew by 8-10% yearly.

-Establishment of the National Partnership Network (PCA Committee on Entrepreneurial Activities and Consumers’ Affairs). The Government adopted a decision regarding this recommendation on the establishment of the National Partnership Foundation, jointly with the “National Partnership” NGO.

- Focusing on the issue of amnesty, which was discussed by general public and mass media, the Public Council organized mass discussions of the issue. As a result, recommendations were made and the groups eligible for amnesty were identified. Those recommendations were submitted to the Armenian President and most of them were incorporated in his recommendation presented to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia with regard to declaring an amnesty.

-Like many other newly independent States, Armenia is faced with numerous problems in the field of agriculture. Having discussed the issues in that area, the Public Council reached a conclusion that the best scenario for the solution of those problems is promotion of agricultural cooperatives in Armenia. Taking into account also the relevant experience existing in the world, the Public Council launched the cooperative movement and will see to it that the movement will further evolve in Armenia. A package of recommendations made by the Council was approved by the Armenian Government and was incorporated in the Strategic Program for agriculture, which was drawn up by the Government.

-Another issue that aroused public concern in the country was that of content of the Armenian TV programs. Numerous non-governmental organizations and individual citizens expressed their deep discontent over the current quality of the TV programs. The Public Council set up a working group engaging professionals from that field. In conformity with the principle of freedom of speech, the working group came up with a Charter that lays down the ethical principles that the TV broadcasters in the Republic of Armenia should comply with in their operation. Almost all TV companies signed the Charter. At present the representatives of TV companies established a monitoring group

within the framework of the Charter that will further clarify the application of the norms outlined in the Charter.

1. **Affiliations**AICESIS

Highlighting the important role of AICESIS, the PCA believes that the establishment of bilateral relations between member organizations not only will even more contribute to the works done by this institution, but also will highly contribute to the strengthening of the dialogue between governments and civil societies of the member countries.

In the framework of AICESIS, the Public Council of Armenia has signed bilateral agreements between Civic Chamber of Russian Federation, Economic and Social Council of Portugal, China Economic and Social Council, a tripartite agreement with Civic Chamber of Russian Federation and National tripartite Social and Economic Council of Ukraine, with Economic and Social Council of Greece and Social and Economic Development Council of Brazil.

* [Note on Social Dialogue (September 2011)](http://www.aicesis.org/files/organizations/24/110915_AICESIS_PC_Social_Dialogue_in_ARMENIA.doc) (436.5 Kb) [Télécharger](http://www.aicesis.org/files/organizations/24/110915_AICESIS_PC_Social_Dialogue_in_ARMENIA.doc)

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